

Application Number: 09/403,443  
Reply to Final O.A. of November 26, 2003

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### AMENDMENTS TO THE CLAIMS

This listing of claims will replace all prior versions, and listings, of claims in the application:

#### Listing of Claims:

1. (Previously Presented) An apparatus for administering a liquid medicament, comprising a housing, a piston, a container and a propelling device, said propelling device comprising:
  - (a) a base element;
  - (b) a first shifting stage being shiftable relative to said base element, said first shifting stage, on shifting, advances said piston in said container resulting in said liquid medicament being dispensed from said container in a metered manner; and
  - (c) at least a second shifting stage being shiftable relative to said base element as well as relative to said first shifting stage in said advance direction of said piston and slaving said first shifting stage in its shifting movement in an advance direction of said piston,
  - (d) said first and said second shifting stages, when seen in said advance direction of said piston, overlap at least in part, wherein said propelling device and said container are accommodated and fixed in place in the housing, that said piston is held in said container and said first shifting stage is connected to said piston only by exerting contact pressure on said piston.
2. (Previously Presented) The propelling device of claim 1, characterized in that said first and said second shifting stages are operably connected by a male thread and a female thread, forming a first spindle drive, a rotational movement of which causes said first shifting stage to shift.
3. (Previously Presented) The propelling device of claim 2, wherein said second shifting stage shifts as a driven member of a second spindle drive.
4. (Original) The propelling device of claim 3, wherein said second shifting stage is movably slaved by a drive member of said second spindle drive.

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5. (Original) The propelling device of claim 4, wherein the thread of said second shifting stage with which said second shifting stage engages said drive member of said second spindle drive and the thread of said first shifting stage have the same hand.
6. (Original) The propelling device of claim 3, wherein said second shifting stage is rotary driven and forms, together with a reaction member which is non-rotatable relative to said base element, said second spindle drive.
7. (Original) The propelling device of claim 3, wherein said first shifting stage is rotary driven and forms, together with said second shifting stage which is non-rotatable relative to said base element, said first spindle drive.
8. (Previously Presented) The propelling device of claim 1, wherein an axis of rotation of said two spindle drives are in alignment.
9. (Original) The propelling device of claim 2, wherein said first shifting stage and a shifting axis of said second shifting stage are parallel to each other.
10. (Previously Presented) The propelling device of claim 3, wherein said first shifting stage is rotationally driven by a drive member of said second spindle drive via a spur gear unit.
11. (Original) The propelling device of claim 10, wherein one of said first shifting stage and said second shifting stage is prevented from rotating relative to said base element by an anti-rotation lock.
12. (Original) The propelling device of claim 11, wherein said anti-rotation lock is formed by a slipper having at least one sliding surface area relative to said base element and at least one sliding surface area relative to said first shifting stage, said sliding surface areas permitting shifting and preventing a rotation of said first shifting stage relative to said base element.

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13. (Original) The propelling device of claim 12, wherein said slipper is jointly shifted together with said second shifting stage.

14. (Original) The propelling device of claim 13, wherein said anti-rotation lock comprises a sleeve body substantially surrounding said propelling device.

15. (Previously Presented) A portable medicament administering device comprising at least:

- (a) a housing;
- (b) a reservoir for a liquid medicament to be administered;
- (c) a piston which, by advancing, dispenses in a metered manner said liquid medicament to be administered from said reservoir; and
- (d) a propelling device operably coupled to said piston by contact only for advancing said piston.

C 16. (Currently amended) An apparatus for administering a substance, comprising a housing, a piston, a container and a propelling device, the propelling device comprising:

- a base element;
- a first shifting stage shiftable relative to said base element; and
- a second shifting stage shiftable relative to said base element and to said first shifting stage and slaving said first shifting stage, wherein said propelling device and the container and piston are operably coupled to the housing and a portion of said first shifting stage is in contact with the piston, the propelling device and the container separately accommodated in the housing whereby either the container, the propelling device or both can be exchanged.

17. (Previously Presented) The apparatus according to claim 16, wherein said first and said second shifting stages are operably coupled by respective complementary threaded portions to form a first spindle drive, a rotational movement of which causes said first shifting stage to shift.

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18. (Previously Presented) The apparatus according to claim 17, further comprising a second spindle drive, wherein said second shifting stage shifts as a driven member of the second spindle drive.

19. (Previously Presented) The apparatus according to claim 18, wherein said second shifting stage is substantially slaved in both rotation and shift by said second spindle drive.

20. (Original) The apparatus according to claim 19, wherein said first and second shifting stages overlap in part.

21. (Currently amended) An apparatus for administering a liquid medicament, comprising a housing, a piston, a container and a propelling device ~~A propelling device for a device for administering a medicinal liquid, said device for administering comprising a housing~~, said propelling device comprising a drive module operably coupled to the housing and comprising:  
a piston;  
shifting stages comprising a first shifting stage and a second shifting stage, said first shifting stage operably coupled to said piston only by contacting said piston; and  
a motor drive operably coupled to said shifting stages.

22. (Currently amended) The apparatus propelling device according to claim 21, wherein the shifting stages are telescopically coupled.

23. (Currently amended) An apparatus for administering a liquid medicament ~~A device for dispensing a medication~~ comprising:  
a housing;  
a container having an outlet, the container received in the housing and containing the medication to be dispended through the outlet;  
a piston; and  
a drive for moving the piston comprising a drive for supplying power, a drive member and a driven member only contacting the piston, wherein the drive member and driven member are telescopically coupled.